



Pomeroy Ranger District
Umatilla National Forest

UPPER PATAHA PROJECT

— RANGE —

Categorical Exclusion Resource Considerations

Proposed Action

Commercial timber harvest and non-commercial thinning would be used to manage stand density, structure, and species composition in project units totaling approximately 2,200 acres. A majority of the units would be treated using ground-based equipment; the rest would be skyline or hand thinning units.

Disposal of slash created by harvest operations would be accomplished by burning landing piles, and possibly by grapple piling slash within units. Imminent and likely danger trees along haul routes would be removed. All work would be done utilizing existing road systems and the construction of approximately 1 mile of temporary roads; temporary roads will be obliterated following use.

Required Design Features

The following design features are required to ensure compliance with the regulatory framework for this resource and/or to reduce the risk of adverse impacts to this resource. A description is provided as to when, where and how the design feature should be applied and/or what conditions would trigger the need to apply the design feature.

1. All livestock improvement will be protected during logging and fuels activities. Any improvements damaged during project implementation will be repaired.
2. If livestock are present along pasture fences, adequate measures will be taken to prevent movement of livestock across pastures. All gates must be operable prior to moving to the next unit. If livestock are present in the area gates will remain closed during and after daily operations.
3. Fence right-of-ways (6 feet on either side) will be maintained clear of slash during activities.

Anticipated Effectiveness: Protection of existing improvements and prevent unwanted movement of cattle out of designated pastures.

Cause-Effect Relationship

All actions would increase livestock distribution on the allotment by increasing access and or may generally increase available forage for domestic livestock.

Regulatory Framework

The proposed action has been reviewed and is determined to be in compliance with the management framework applicable to this resource. The laws, regulations, policies and Forest Plan direction applicable to this project and this resource are as follows:

“Protect the productivity and make suitable National Forest System lands available for grazing and browsing use in coordination with other resource uses. There is no minimum output requirement (Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Sec. 402, 36 CFR 222.1 (a)) (U.S. Laws, Statutes, etc. 1976) (MR).” — 1990 Umatilla National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, p.4-63)

Extraordinary Circumstances

Following are the resource conditions that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to a proposed action warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or an EIS:

- 1) Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species;
- 2) Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds;
- 3) Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas;
- 4) Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas;
- 5) Research natural areas;
- 6) American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites; and
- 7) Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas.

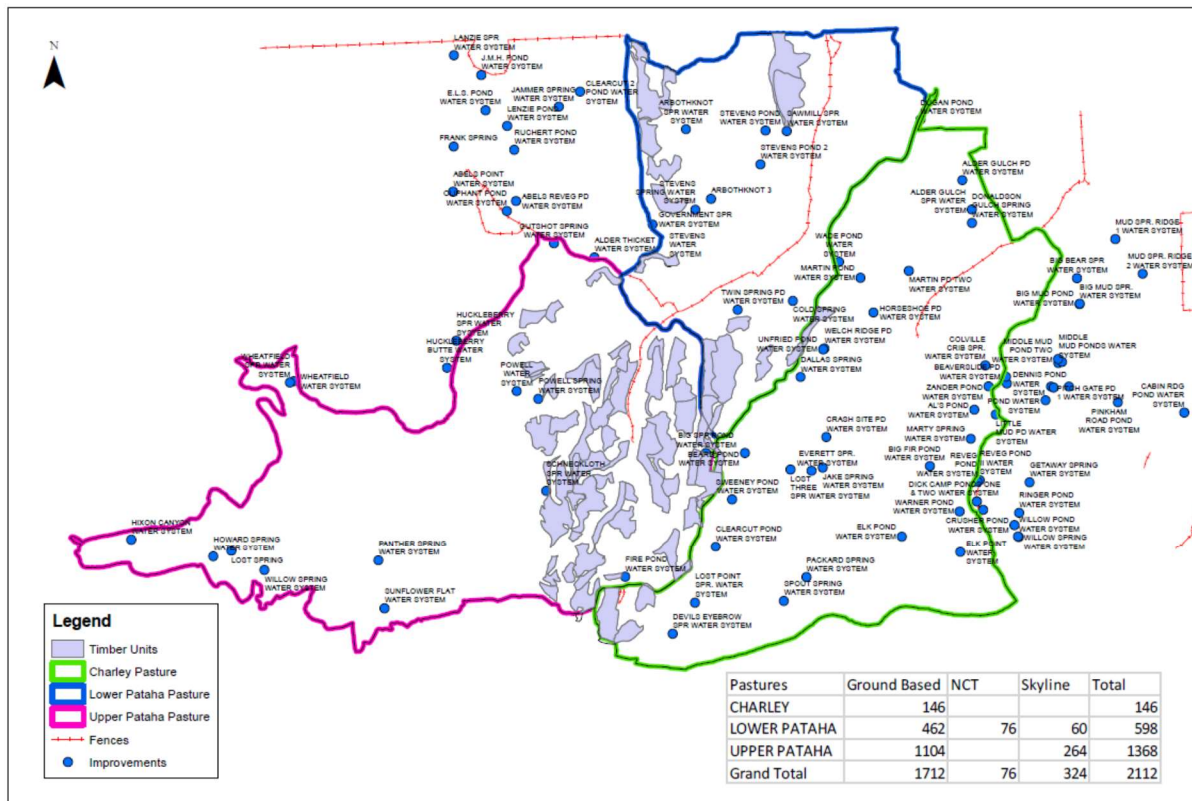
No extraordinary circumstances need to be considered for this resource.

Description of the Spatial and Temporal Bounds used for Effects Analyses

Spatial Boundary

The spacial boundary is the Upper Pataha project area. It lies within three pastures (Charley, Lower Pataha and Upper Pataha) of the Peola C&H Allotment.

Peola C&H Allotment/Pasture with Upper Pataha Units



Temporal Boundary

Cows are present annually from June 29 through August 22 for a 56 day period with 333 cow/calf pairs.

Direct/Indirect Effects

All actions would likely increase livestock distribution on the allotment by increasing access and may generally increase available forage for domestic livestock.

Commercial harvest, non-commercial thinning, removal of danger trees, and burning could reduce the effectiveness of fences (which are used as a tool to manage livestock in portions of the allotment at specific times). However, the identified design features would protect fences in their existing condition to prevent livestock movement between pastures (see required design features).

Cumulative Effects

Past, Present & Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

Projects implemented in the past 10 years: _

- 2008 Non-Commercial Thinning and Fuels Reduction Project
- 2014 Non-Commercial Thinning Project
- School Fire Salvage
- Loop Road Salvage

Current, ongoing uses and permits: _

- Peola C&H Allotment

Reasonable Foreseeable Future Projects (likely to be implemented in the next 5 years and may contribute to cumulative effects with this project):_

- None

Cumulative Effects: None.

/s/ *Angela Druffel*

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